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Security Council

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Resolution 1818 (2008)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 5911th meeting, on 13 June 2008

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 2 June 2008 (S/2008/353) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep UNFICYP beyond 15 June 2008,

Echoing the Secretary-General's firm belief that the responsibility of finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, that there now exists an important window of opportunity to make decisive progress which must be fully utilized by all parties in the search for a comprehensive solution, and *noting* the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Welcoming the agreement of 21 March and the Joint Statement of 23 May 2008 which, inter alia, have demonstrated a renewed political willingness to support and engage fully and in good faith with the United Nations efforts, reaffirmed the commitment of the leaders to a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions, and to consider further civilian and military confidence-building measures,

Welcoming the opening of the Ledra Street crossing which has helped foster greater trust and interaction between the two communities; *reaffirming* the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and *encouraging* the opening of other crossing points,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser at the appropriate time and to keep the Council informed of further developments and progress,

Taking note of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains generally stable, welcoming the decrease in the overall number of incidents involving the two sides, and urging both sides to avoid any action, including restrictions on UNFICYP's movements, which could lead to an increase in tension,

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Welcoming the coordination arrangements agreed with the United Nations to address unauthorized construction within the buffer zone, including large-scale commercial projects, and *echoing* the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accepted the 1989 aide-memoire used by the United Nations,

Welcoming the agreement with the Turkish forces to proceed with demining activities, but *urging* that further guidelines be agreed to permit such activities to take place in all outstanding minefields; *noting with concern* that funding for the Mine Action Centre beyond 2008 has not yet been secured but that this work will need to continue beyond that period,

Welcoming the progress and continuation of the important activities of the Committee on Missing Persons; expressing the hope that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that an active and flourishing civil society is essential to the political process and *welcoming* all efforts to promote bicommunal contacts and events, including, inter alia, on the part of all United Nations bodies on the island, and *urging* the two sides to promote the active engagement of civil society and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts,

Reaffirming the importance of the Secretary-General continuing to keep the operations of UNFICYP under close review while continuing to take into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties, and reverting to the Council with recommendations as appropriate for further adjustments to UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operation as soon as warranted,

Welcoming the appointment of Tayé-Brook Zerihoun as the Secretary-General's new Special Representative to Cyprus, and *echoing* the Secretary-General's appreciation for the work of the previous Special Representative, Michael Moller,

Echoing also the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP, and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Welcomes* the analysis of developments on the ground over the last six months in the Secretary-General's report;

2. *Urges* the parties to build on the present momentum and continue their efforts to identify to the greatest possible extent areas of convergence and disagreement, while preparing options where feasible on the more sensitive elements, and to work to ensure that fully fledged negotiations can begin expeditiously and smoothly, in line with the agreement of 21 March and the Joint Statement of 23 May;

3. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

4. *Expresses* its full support for UNFICYP and decides to extend its mandate for a further period ending 15 December 2008;

5. *Calls on* both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting UNFICYP's mandate, in consultations with UNFICYP on the demarcation of the buffer zone, and on the United Nations 1989 aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

6. *Calls on* the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution by 1 December 2008 and to keep the Security Council updated on events as necessary;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNFICYP to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of pre-deployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.